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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY FOR JUNE 8, 2005

Consulate Adana is providing this press scan for June 8. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

1-People are trying to heal the wounds that a 5.7-magnitude earthquake caused one day before in Karliova district of Bingol. 54 people were injured.

2-According to a TNP announcement, five persons who had arrived in Istanbul after allegedly having been trained about bombs in terrorist organizations' camps, were taken into custody as a result of a military operation. They reportedly were found to have links to the killings of two (unspecified) persons, in Diyarbakir and Bingol.

3-Diyarbakir Bar Association filed a complaint with the Diyarbakir Prosecutor against the decision of Diyarbakir's 6th Heavy Penalty Court to allow MIT intelligence center to wiretap communications in southeastern Turkey.

4-The Second Chief of Staff, Ilker Basbug, said that it was not enough only to list the PKK among the list of terrorist organizations. He noted that the terrorist organisation should be deprived of its external resources and should absolutely be discouraged about being successful. Basbug strongly rejected the idea of depicting Turkey as 'moderate islam'. He stressed that Turkey was a secular country.

5-The Ministry of Agriculture has still been not able to work out a solution to resume vegetable and fruit exporting to Russia.

6-The Office of the Governor in Agri reportedly did not allow the Mayor of Dogubeyazit (from DEHAP) to go abroad. Another example of the same practice was reportedly implemented by the Urfa Governor a week ago, when Suruc Mayor Ethem Sahin was not allowed to go abroad.

7-In a monthly Municipality Assembly meeting in Van, SHP members, claiming that there was corruption in some of the 2004 municipality tenders of the Van Municipality (AKP), demanded that the reports be opened to scrutiny. The tension rose in the meeting and plastic bottles and plates were thrown in the meeting hall. AKP members vetoed the demand of SHP members. Separately, tension between the AKP and CHP members was reportedly aggravated in the Municipality Assembly of Seyhan district in Adana, when a CHP member invited Seyhan's Mayor from AKP (Azim Ozturk) to a debate corruption issues concerning the Municipality on a TV program.

8-Turkish Journalists' Union and Private Radio Television Broadcasters' Association reportedly invited 20 Armenian journalists to Turkey. The journalists will be hosted in Ankara, Istanbul, Antalya and Cappadocia.

9-Mazlum-Der Deputy National Chairperson applied to the Office of the President through the Office of the Sanliurfa Governor to request information about MIT intelligence center's latest wiretapping.

10-The NGOs in Mersin gathered to stage a protest against the New Turkish Penal Code, isolation of the inmates in jails and people being taken into custody.

11- Nine of 10 people detained in Mersin for participating in Nevruz celebrations, conducting unauthorised demonstrations, and damaging property during the demonstration, were released by the court because of a lack of evidence about the claims.

12-The Office of the Governor in Sirnak is reportedly not allowing a 60-person clan to go to their area in Farasin highland to pass the summer. The clan members claim that they were not allowed to go to their land despite the fact that they paid a rental fee to the Governor's Office.

13-Adana Deputy Metropolitan Mayor and member of Seyhan District Municipality Assembly, Prof. Ali Goren, was attacked and beaten by four people at the Municipality building as he was exiting a meeting hall. Goren was healthy enough to go to the police station and submit his statement there, but his condition got worse and he was taken to the Adana Numune Hospital. Goren is conscious but his condition is being watched under intensive care.

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